REMARKS

I.   Claim Objection

According to the Office Action, claim 25 is objected to because the word "an" in line 2 appears to be superfluous. In response, claim 25 is amended to delete "an".

II.   Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

According to the Office Action, claims 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,566,327 issued to Sher.   This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to claims 19-27 as amended.

With respect to claims 19-21, these claims are amended to recite a "central server . . . comprising a processor to receive a tag identifier pertaining to a tag worn by a guest of said coverage area by way of said service terminal or kiosk system, to access said guest data object [stored in the local non-volatile memory] using said tag identifier, to read said data field to obtain said information related to an amount of monetary credits, and to modify said monetary credits" (emphasis added). Such elements of the claims are neither described nor suggested in the Sher Patent.

In the Sher Patent, the monetary credits information is stored in the smart card carried by the guest (see col. 7, lines 14-19 and Figure 5). Whereas in the claimed invention, the monetary credits information is stored in a local non-volatile memory of the central server. In addition, in the Sher Patent, the monetary credits information is transferred from the smart card to the central server. In the claimed invention, it is a tag identifier which is transferred from the tag to the central server.   The central server then access the guest data object to modify the monetary credits information.

With respect to claims 22-24, these claims are amended to recite a "plurality of data objects stored in a centralized memory each a first data field containing information related to monetary credits useful for making monetary transactions within a coverage area and a second data field containing a tag identifier pertaining to a tag worn by a guest of said coverage area" (emphasis added). This element is neither described nor suggested in the Sher Patent.

In the Sher Patent, only a single data object containing monetary credits information is stored in the smart card. Whereas in the claimed invention, a plurality of data objects are stored

in a centralized memory each containing the monetary credits information. Furthermore, the claimed guest data objects stored in the centralized memory each further includes a second data field containing a tag identifier pertaining to a tag worn by a guest of the coverage area. Such feature is not disclosed in the Sher Patent.

With respect to claims 25-27, these claims are amended to recite a "data structure stored in a centralized memory used to create a plurality of guest data objects stored in said centralized memory, wherein said data structure defines a first data field for containing information related to monetary credits useful for making monetary transactions within a coverage area and a second data field for containing a tag identifier pertaining to a tag worn by a guest of said guest data object." Such feature is not disclosed in the Sher Patent.

In the Sher Patent, the data structure is used to create a data object stored in an individual card. Whereas in the claimed invention, the data structure is used to create a plurality of data objects stored in a centralized memory. In addition, the claimed guest data further includes a second data field containing a tag identifier pertaining to a tag worn by a guest of the coverage area. Such feature is not disclosed in the Sher Patent.

In view of the foregoing amendments, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19-27 is respectfully requested.

III.   Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

According to the Office Action, claims 1-18 and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over the Sher Patent in view of U.S. Patent 6,484,947 issued to Miyata. Claims 28-32 are cancelled. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed as it applies to claims 1-18.

With regard to claims 1-10, these claims recite "reading an identification tag worn by said guest to obtain a tag identifier." Such feature is not disclosed in the Sher Patent. In the Office Action, it is alleged that the Sher Patent discloses such feature citing block 114 shown in Figure 6B. However, this block merely indicates that a guest card is retrieved "for the visitor so that the visitor may use the card to gain access to the theme park's premises and to use the card for the services and/or products the card was loaded with." (see col. 6, lines 51-55). Moreover, the Sher Patent does not describe reading a tag identifier from a tag.

In addition, claims 1-10 further recite "accessing a guest data object using said tag identifier." Such feature is neither described nor suggested in the Sher Patent. In the Office Action, it is alleged that the Sher Patent discloses such feature citing col. 4, lines 57-61. However, this cite merely states that "the smart card reader allows the PC machine . . . to read data from, or to write data into, the visitor guest card."

With regard to claims 11-18, these claims also recite "a reader to read a tag identifier stored in an identification tag worn by a guest at said coverage area . . . and a processor to cause a transmission of said tag identifier and said payment information to said central server by way of said network interface." As discussed above with reference to claims 1-10, the Sher Patent does not disclose the reading and transmission of a tag identifier.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Please cancel claims 28-32 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 19, 22-27 as follows:

1   1.   (Original) A method of providing monetary credits to a guest at a coverage area,
2   comprising:
3   receiving payment from said guest for said monetary credits;
4   reading an identification tag worn by said guest to obtain a tag identifier;
5   accessing a guest data object using said tag identifier; and
6   modifying information related to monetary credits in a data field of a guest data object
7   based on an amount of said payment.

1   2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving said payment is by a credit
2   card.

1   3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving said payment is by a debit
2   card.

1   4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving said payment is by cash.

1   5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said identification tag comprises a
2   radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

1   6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein reading said identification tag
2   comprises using an RFID reader to read said guest identifier from said RFID tag.

1   7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying said monetary credits
2   information comprises a processor modifying said monetary credit information stored in said
3   data field of said guest data object.

1   8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting said tag

2   identifier and said payment amount from a service terminal or kiosk system to a central server by

3   way of a communications link.

1   9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising transmitting credit card

2   information from said service terminal or kiosk system to said central server by way of said

3   communications link.

1   10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

2   transmitting a digital photograph information of said guest from said service terminal or

3   kiosk system to said central server by way of said communications link; and

4   writing said digital photograph information in a second data field of said guest data

5   object.

1   11.   (Original) A system for purchasing monetary credits for making monetary

2   transactions within a coverage area, comprising:

3   a reader to read a tag identifier stored in an identification tag worn by a guest at said

4   coverage area;

5   an input device to receive information related to a payment for said monetary credits;

6   a network interface to communicate with a central server; and

7   a processor to cause a transmission of said tag identifier and said payment information to

8   said central server by way of said network interface.

1   12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said reader comprises a radio

2   frequency identification (RFID) reader.

1   13.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said input device comprises a

2   keyboard.

1   14.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said input device comprises a touch

2   screen input device.

1   15.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a display for displaying
2   information related to the purchase of said monetary credits.

1   16.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a printer for generating
2   documents containing information related to the purchase of said monetary credits.

1   17.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a digital camera for taking
2   a digital photograph of said guest and wherein said processor is capable of transmitting said
3   digital photograph of said guest to said central server by way of said network interface.

1   18.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a credit or debit card reader
2   to read information from a credit or debit card, and wherein said processor is capable of
3   transmitting said credit or debit card information to said central server by way of said network
4   interface.

1   19.   (Currently Amended) A central server to facilitate transactions within a coverage
2   area, comprising:
3   a <u>local</u> non-volatile memory to store a guest data object including a first data field
4   containing information related to monetary credits;
5   a network interface to communicate with a service terminal or kiosk system; and
6   a processor to receive <u>a tag identifier pertaining to a tag worn by</u> ~~information related to~~ a
7   guest of said coverage area <u>by way of said service terminal of kiosk system, to access said guest</u>
8   <u>data object using said tag identifier, to read said first data field to obtain said</u> and information
9   related to <u>said</u> ~~an amount of~~ monetary credits ~~to be purchased from said service terminal or kiosk~~
10   ~~system by way of said network interface~~, and to modify said monetary credits information ~~based~~
11   ~~on said amount of monetary credits information~~.

1   20.   (Original) The central server of claim 19, wherein said guest data object further
2   includes a second data field to contain information related to credit or debit card information of
3   said guest.

1   21.   (Original) The central server of claim 19, wherein said guest data object further

2   includes a second data field containing information related to a digital photograph of said guest.

1   22.   (Currently Amended) A <u>plurality of</u> guest data object<u>s</u> stored in a <u>centralized</u>

2   memory <u>each</u> comprising a first data field containing information related to monetary credits

3   useful for making monetary transactions within a coverage area <u>and a second data field</u>

4   <u>containing a tag identifier pertaining to a tag worn by a guest of said coverage area</u>.

1   23.   (Currently Amended) The guest data object<u>s</u> of claim 22, <u>each</u> further comprising

2   a ~~second~~ <u>third</u> data field containing information related to credit or debit card information of said

3   guest.

1   24.   (Currently Amended) The guest data object<u>s</u> of claim 23, <u>each</u> further comprising

2   a ~~third~~ <u>fourth</u> data field containing information related to a digital photograph of said guest.

1   25.   (Currently Amended) A data structure stored in a <u>centralized</u> memory <u>used to</u>

2   <u>create a plurality of guest data on objects stored in said centralized memory wherein said data</u>

3   <u>structure defines</u> ~~defining~~ a first data field for containing information related to ~~an~~ monetary

4   <u>credits useful for making monetary transactions within a coverage area and a second data field</u>

5   <u>for containing a tag identifier pertaining to a tag worn by a guest of said coverage area</u>.

1   26.   (Currently Amended) The data structure of claim 25, further defining a ~~second~~

2   <u>third</u> data field containing information related to credit or debit card information of said guest.

1   27.   (Currently Amended) The data structure of claim 25, further defining a ~~second~~

2   <u>third</u> data field containing information related to a digital photograph of said guest.

1   28.   (Canceled).

1   29.   (Canceled).

1   30.   (Canceled).

1   31.   (Canceled).

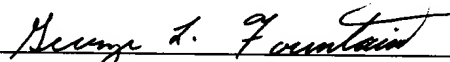1   32.   (Canceled).

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450 on: July 21, 2003.

Laura R. Dixon   7/21/03

Laura R. Dixon   *Date*